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The student newspaper of the University of Victoria since 1948

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Oh Canada, our home and *NATIVE* land

by Eric Morten

The Ts' Peten Defenders have looked forward to having their day in court. After going twice to the United Nations, as well as to various gatherings and meetings about Shuswap land issues, and after spending almost a year in jail, William Ignace (aka Wolverine) sees the Gustafsen Lake trial as another way to get the truth out. But with the trial in its third week, mainstream media coverage has yet to happen.

Reporters for the mainstream media were present during Crown Council's questioning of American cattle rancher Lyle James but were absent for Harry Rankin's cross examination for the defense. Reacting to the scant media coverage in an interview on Bad News, a CFUV activist radio program, Wolverine said, "The newspapers are in the hip pockets of the corporations and the truth doesn't sell papers."

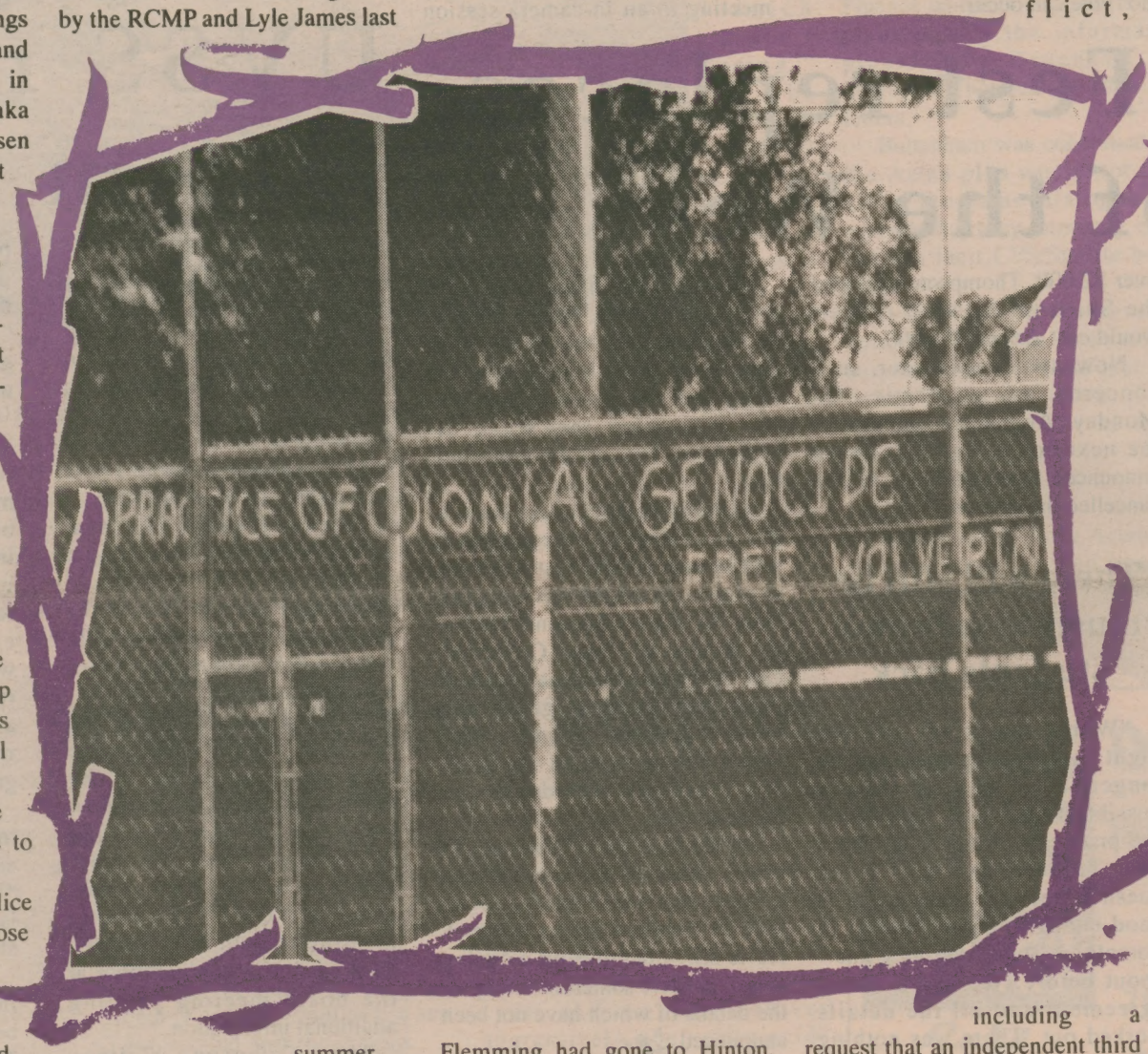
"I'm here because the NDP wanted to kill Natives to get votes," said Wolverine.

Following the largest police operation in B.C., costing close to $5 million, the trial promises to be no small event. The estimated cost per day is around $50,000 and the end is not in sight. The presiding judge commented that the trial, conducted as it is, will last until Christmas. In response defense attorney George Wool said, "Well, merry Christmas, then," further stating that the trial would last as long as it had to in order to get to the truth.

> "I'm here because the NDP wanted to kill Natives to get votes"

Crown counsel has done its part in helping to slow things down at the trial. Disclosures from the prosecution relating to RCMP witnesses have included copies of their notes from selected dates during the "standoff" when it was clear that these officers were involved with the operation before and after the disclosure dates and had kept extensive notes. After disclosing copies of all of the notes, the Crown expected to have heard 14 witnesses by the end of day four of the trial and had instead heard six.

The full testimony of the officers is crucial to proving the defense's contention that the "standoff" occurred due to an escalation of events brought on by the RCMP and Lyle James last summer.



The RCMP witnesses have been evasive, however. The Crown's first witness, Constable Ken Tassell, assigned as the file coordinator for Gustafsen Lake, testified that on August 17, 1995 he was asked to drive ERT officers from the Kamloops detachment to Gustafsen Lake. Although he remembered the exact time that he picked up the team (4:11 pm), he could not remember who gave him the order to drive the team to the lake.

Tassell repeatedly told the court that he had no direct knowledge of the information he shared with the team during the hour long drive although all RCMP reports regarding Gustafsen Lake had crossed his desk. After the fifth defense lawyer cross examined him, Tassell admitted that he shared his knowledge of Gustafsen Lake with the Emergency Response Team (ERT) members.

Tassell's testimony also revealed that the RCMP had three Native officers working in the area but pulled them from their duties before the ERT squads arrived on Aug. 17, increasing tensions dramatically.

Crown witness Constable Brian Flemming also showed reluctance to implicate his superiors on cross examination. Flemming had gone to Hinton, Alberta on Sept. 3, 1995 and spoke with John "Doc" Hill who gave him the address of John Stevens, the medicine man for the camp who eventually brought about a peaceful settlement to the "standoff" on Sept.17. Flemming stated in court that he did not visit Stevens and did not take any notes while in Alberta. Consequently, Flemming said that he did not pass Stevens' name on to his superiors.

George Wool questioned Flemming with regard to any knowledge he had of the highly publicized "shooting incident" that took place on Sept. 4 in which RCMP officers claimed that their truck had been shot at and they had been stalked through the bushes by natives all night. In fact, the officers accidentally hit a tree branch in their truck and panicked. The incident was used by the RCMP to justify the introduction of the military and armoured personnel carriers into the area. Flemming said that he had no knowledge of the incident.

During the trial as well as the "standoff," the Ts' Peten Defenders have made it clear that this is a land rights issue.

At the beginning of the "standoff," the Defenders issued a press release with demands for a peaceful resolution to the conflict, including a request that an independent third party investigate illegal selling and leasing of native lands on unceded territory in Canada. A 1763 Royal Proclamation vowed to protect all unceded Indian territories from encroachment by Crown subjects. The proclamation was validated in 1982 when the constitution was ratified.

Lyle James testified that the Defenders erected fences and a cabin on the Sundance site at Gustafsen Lake. The fences were erected in order to keep the grazing cattle from defecating on the sacred grounds and the cabin was for maintenance of the grounds and for cooking, though James saw it as a breach of the agreement he had with the Sundancers.

The agreement entered into evidence at the trial states that the property in question belongs to the James Cattle Company but that the Sundancers may use it if they do not erect any structures. The agreement is allegedly between James and Percy Rosette, Faith Keeper of the Sundance, but the paper in evidence is not signed by James or witnesses and only marked with an X next to Rosette's name.

Although James denied any dispute of ownership of the land, he admitted on the stand that the paragraph in the agreement stating that the land belongs to the company addresses the question of land ownership.

James testified that on June 13, 1995, he and 10 ranch hands arrived at the Sundance site to serve an eviction notice. The notice, drafted in February, had a deadline time which had already passed making it impossible for the Defenders to comply.

John "Doc" Hill said the ranch hands "pulled out rifles and threatened to kill them [the Sundancers]. One of them pulled out a bullwhip and said, 'This is a good day to string up some red niggers.'" Lyle James has testified that one of the ranch hands had a bullwhip but was just playing with it.

James testified that neither he nor his ranch hands had any confrontations with the Sundancers, although he preferred to believe his ranch hands' claims of innocence over the Natives'.

Although James denied that there were any politics involved in the "standoff," he testified that he met with several politicians including MLA Dave Zirnhelt and Jack Weisgerber, head of the B.C. Reform Party.

Wolverine sees the entire process as political and feels he is being held for political reasons. "How much longer is the genocide going to continue in this country?" he said. "Is this how politicians will get re-elected in the future? Bump off a few more of our people?"

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October referendum at Camosun allows students a choice

by Oliver Kuehn

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) has decided to hold a referendum October 29-31 allowing students to decide the amount of fees they will pay to the Canadian Federation of Students.

Camosun students have paid extra fees since 1993, when the CCSS voted to raise the CFS component of student fees to their present level of $6 a semester for full-time students.

According to 1993 CCSS by-laws, such a decision should have been made through an open referendum.

"The board at the time believed the CFS bylaws took precedence over CCSS bylaws. We at the board now disagree with this completely. We believe students should always have the choice [in] what's done with their funds," said Rusty Friske, Interurban campus executive rep.

In the event of a 'yes' victory in October, fees will remain set at $6 for the January semester. A 'no' win, however, means Camosun students will pay $2.25 less in January for a total of $3.75.

The CCSS called the referendum to give students an opportunity to decide whether the 1993 fee increase was done fairly. Open campaigning for both 'yes' and 'no' sides will be permitted on campus prior to the vote.

All this comes at a time when there is great conflict between the CFS and the CCSS. The Camosun board of directors recently voted 8-1 to inform the CFS of plans to hold a pull-out referendum. CFS by-laws require a six-month waiting period before such a 'yes-no' vote can occur.

A July meeting between CFS-BC executives and CCSS delegates turned sour when a report submitted by the CCSS was not accepted by CFS executive members.

"The report contained unsubstantiated allegations against a specific individual, therefore we couldn't accept it," said CFS-BC executive administrator, Michael Gardiner.

"We believe students should always have the choice what's done with their fees."

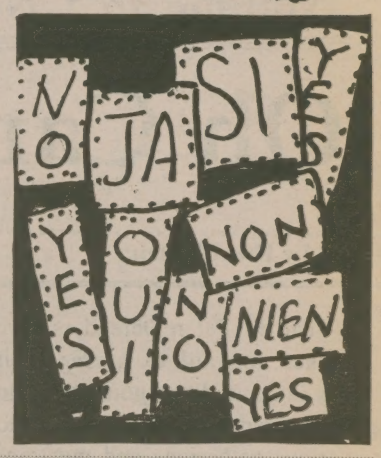
A decision to change the meeting to an in-camera session resulted in CCSS delegates leaving the room in protest.

"Since that occurrence there has been no direct communication regarding this issue," said CCSS external executive, Kevin Armbruster. All communication has been limited between the CFS-BC and the CCSS and other Camosun College student organizations such as the First Nations Student Association and the Women's Centre.

"We don't treat any of our member organizations differently. There is an exaggeration of the amount of lack of communication presented," said Gardiner.

Gardiner added that Camosun is receiving all the usual communications that CFS member organizations should receive, and that if there are any perceived communications shortcomings, the toll-free number to contact the CFS -BC office is at their disposal.

In March, UVic students again voted down a plan to increase our CFS fees by $2.25. We still pay only $3.75 a term, the same amount as before the CFS voted in its fee increase in 1992.



Global Fest replaces Spirit of the West

by Richard Carlson

Two weeks can mean a lot of changes when concerts are concerned.

At the July 30 UVSS Board of Directors meeting, director-at-large Sebastian Troen moved to have Spirit of the West, accompanied by the Victoria Symphony, perform in the Centennial Stadium for Week of Welcome.

On the surface such a concert would seem to have large support, however, several board members had concerns over it.

Conrad Thompson, director of finance, voted against the motion. "I think it is too risky, especially with the financial state the society is in, the time of year and with [union] negotiations going on. If we were to lose money it would not be a good scene," said Thompson.

Last year's Week of Welcome concert, which featured The Odds and The Pursuit of Happiness, lost over $2,000. Thompson estimated the Spirit of the West concert would cost around $50,000.

Now, two weeks later, such concerns are academic. On Monday, August 12, the day of the next board meeting, Troen announced Spirit of the West had cancelled the concert.

There will still be music to welcome students back

"With a concert the previous night in Toronto, the band no longer felt it was logistically possible to perform in Victoria and practice with the symphony," said Troen. However, Troen doesn't feel that this excuse is good enough. "[The concert in Toronto] is something they knew about before. We had a verbal agreement and all the details worked out. There was nothing left except for them to sign," said Troen.

While Spirit of the West will not be performing, there will still be music to welcome students in September. Sonia Manak, director of services and person responsible for organizing the Week of Welcome, has set up a Global Fest.

"Global Fest will encourage a global context on this campus," said Manak. Global Fest will have student organizations ranging from the Native Students Union, the Women of Colour Collective, and other international student organizations. Each group will have displays and free performances outside the SUB. The event is scheduled for September 12.

With less than four weeks before Week of Welcome, Troen did not feel there was enough time to organize another concert. He is still planning on a 'going away' concert sometime in April, the details of which have not been announced.

UVSS rejects racism report

by John Trueman

The UVSS has rejected director-at-large Sebastian Troen's report that alleges a hotel used by the Canadian Federation of Students may have connections to the racist hate group, the Ku Klux Klan.

Troen was under fire from several sides after presenting a controversial report to the board detailing the activities of the provincial executive of the CFS. After much debate, the board rejected the report.

Troen's report urged the UVSS to send a letter to the CFS opposing the use of the Quality Inn, outside Renfrew, Ontario, as the site and informing the National Executive that the UVSS would boycott the CFS November meeting if held at the hotel. This motion was withdrawn at the board meeting pending additional information.

The Camosun College Student Society voted to boycott the CFS November meeting after delegates to a previous meeting reported harassment and racial tension at the meeting site.

In a written statement, CCSS Chairperson Julie Alatiit said, "It has come to our attention that this particular area has been actively involved with various discrimination groups, such as Ku Klux Klan and The Anti Indian Movement."

"Open racism and gay bashing is well known in this small redneck town," said Sam Bouge and Naedia Clifton, First Nations representatives at Camosun. "So for the safety and well-being of our students I strongly suggest that we do not support racist hotels, shops and restaurants. If the CFS supports the use of these facilities then we do not support the CFS."

Troen said that he brought the information forward believing that the UVSS would be concerned about supporting racist organizations. At a UVSS Board of Directors meeting, however, he said, "I don't have the information to back this up."

"This is ludicrous," said director-at-large Rob Fleming. "I think it's very dangerous to go throwing around something unsubstantiated like that."

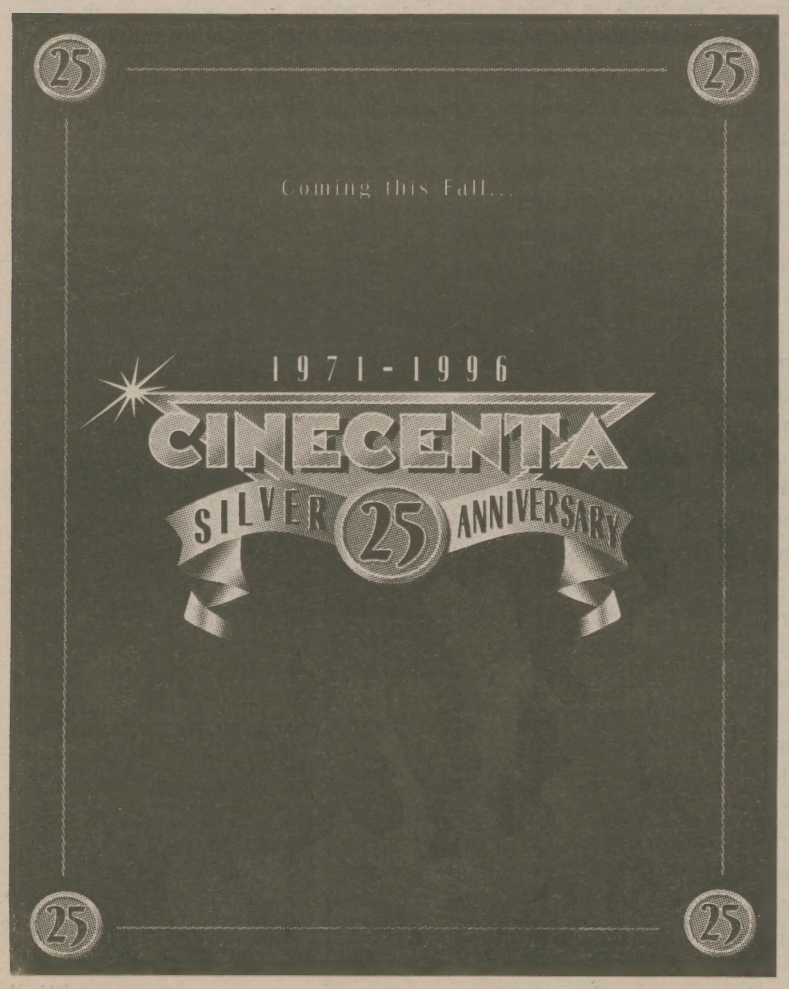
According to Kevin Armbruster, external executive for the CCSS, delegates were harassed while trying to do business in the town. In one incident, students were forced by authorities to produce identification when cashing a cheque. In another, security was called for no apparent reason, and two students were asked to show their passports when attempting to purchase groceries.

Casandra Koenen, national treasurer for the CFS, denies the existence of racism in Renfrew. "Demanding I.D. for a cheque is not an unreasonable request," she said.

Hotel officials at the Renfrew Inn stated, "we've never, never been involved with the KKK. They should substantiate these claims before they are published." Officers of the Renfrew Police Force also denied any knowledge of hate groups in the area.

CFS Students of Colour representative Lance Morgan conducted an extensive Internet search for information linking hate groups to the Renfrew hotel, but said that no specific incidents of racism can be linked to Renfrew. Morgan said, "There is racism throughout this country. I understand peoples' concerns about safety, and we will continue to do everything we can to provide a safe environment at our meetings."

With no evidence to substantiate the claims, the CFS will continue with the Renfrew meeting as planned. According to Koenen "the hotel has gone out of their way to make delegates happy. There are racists in Victoria; there are racists in Ottawa. I don't think the KKK is even in Renfrew. [The CCSS] haven't provided anything to prove their claims."

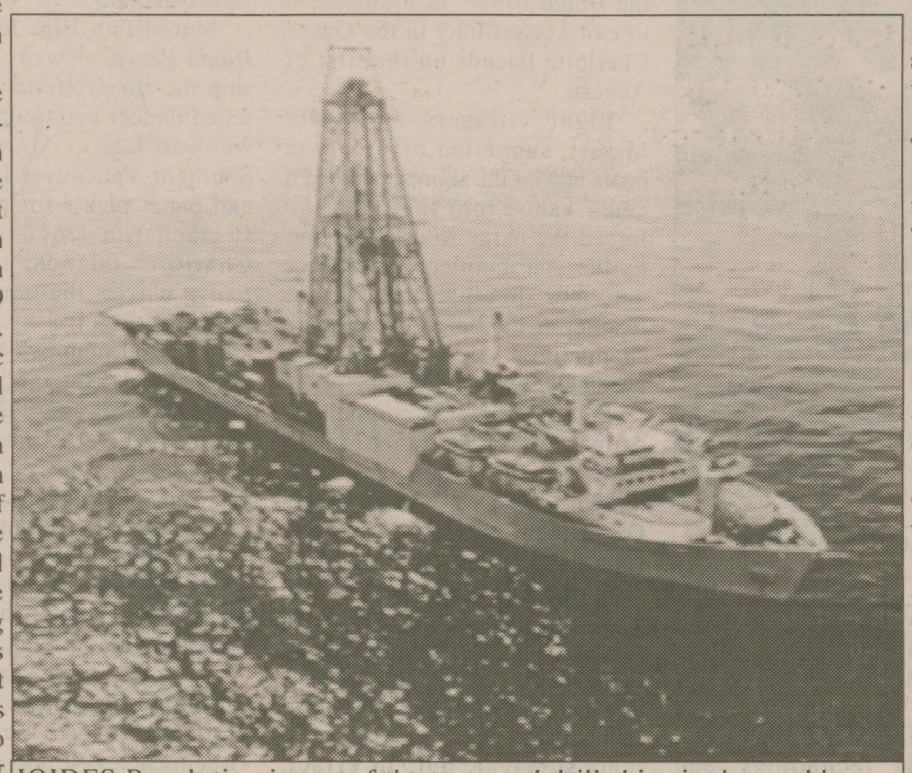


Research ship open for viewing

by John Trueman

The world's most advanced ocean drilling vessel, the JOIDES Resolution, will be in Victoria for viewing this weekend before embarking on a research mission in the Saanich Inlet.

The seven-storey high ship will be docked at Ogden Point on August 19 and 20. Free public tours will be available and a display on the wharf beside the ship will explain the drilling procedures and what scientists hope to discover about our area.



JOIDES Resolution is one of the top-rated drill ships in the world.

Preserved within the sea floor sediments of Saanich Inlet is a record of conditions in the southern Vancouver Island region over the past 10,000 years. Since the water at the bottom of Saanich Inlet is without oxygen, organisms which would normally live in the mud cannot survive. Because there are no organisms to disturb the ocean's floor, layers of mud which are laid down each year are preserved.

Researchers plan to drill into the ocean floor and retrieve a series of sediment cores for study.

"Saanich Inlet affords the opportunity to retrieve a seasonal record of climatic, oceanographic, and terrestrial vegetation change since deglaciation, about 10,000 to 12,000 years ago," said Brian Bornhold, of the Pacific Geoscience Centre.

The ship can drill up to 2000 metres below the sea floor to retrieve cores for analysis on board the ship.

"It will enable researchers to understand better the relationships between global climate change and local responses in temperature, rainfall, vegetation, oceanography and marine productivity," said Bornhold.

To coincide with the arrival of the JOIDES Resolution, UVic has been hosting a series of free public lectures. The final lecture, titled "Ocean Drilling Program: Recent West Coast Drilling and Saanich Inlet Coring," will be held on August 19 at the Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney. Visitors 14 years of age and older are invited to tour the ship on August 19 and 20. Reservations are required.

For information on the tours or the lectures, call UVic's Centre for Earth and Ocean Research at 721-8848.

BoD Briefs

by Kevin Woodley

July 23:

New plan is the old plan

Director of Finance Conrad Thompson informed the board he had sent letters to both Aetna Insurance and Sunlife Insurance Agency.

These letters cancelled the Aetna plan and re-affirmed Sunlife as the health insurance carrier for the University of Victoria Students' Society. Thompson was acting on a motion passed by the board at the July 2 meeting.

Thompson made the decision after an earlier finance meeting attended by Todd Buttenham, the CFS health plan administrator. Finance committee members were pleased with the information provided by Buttenham and instructed Thompson to send both letters.

Buttenham was concerned that the Aetna plan would not offer UVic the same dialogue and service that they currently enjoy through their CFS/Sunlife health plan.

BoD members expressed concern over the idea that the surplus from an Aetna plan was being counted into the UVSS budget. "The health plan is not there to make us money," said Theresa Sabourin, director-at-large.

The specifics of the Aetna plan were never discussed because members were unable to obtain copies of it before the meeting.

Haynes off the table

After nearly two hours of in-camera discussion the board passed a motion to remove UVSS contract negotiator, Richard Haynes from direct negotiations at the bargaining table. Haynes will be retained as a negotiation consultant.

August 12:

Coalition angered

The United Coalition Against Racism made a presentation based on their concerns over the removal of several anti-racism posters in the resource center.

Allegations were made against absent Director of Academics Kelly Sundberg. The board decided not to pursue any motions until Sundberg was present to defend himself against the charges.

Report axed by board

After hours of heated discussion the board rejected director Sebastian Troen's report on the CFS provincial meeting.

Director-at-Large Rob Fleming expressed concerns that Troen was politically hostile to the CFS, an organization to which Troen is supposed to represent the UVSS.

"I am responsible to my students first," said Troen. "If this means that I have to question some of the CFS activities then I will continue to do so."

Cougar spotted on campus

by Joel Casselman

The rabbits and ducks now have a new (though not necessarily welcome) non-human visitor to their campus; a cougar was spotted several times last week in the areas around the campus.

The cougar was first spotted on campus in parking lot C at 5:30 a.m. and at 8:50 a.m. in parking lot 1. Prior to these sightings the animal was seen on Cadboro Bay Road and at Cattle Point in Oak Bay. Bob Smirl, a local Conservation Officer, had been tracking the animal in response to the off-campus sightings.

Smirl and his team of dogs were brought in to find the cougar. Their search was unsuccessful.

Smirl said that there have been three or four cougar sightings on the UVic campus in the past five years. He said that the animal unintentionally wandered out of its natural habitat and was probably lost and confused when it was spotted near the campus.

According the BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, there are approximately 800 adult cougars on Vancouver Island. The animals are shy and rarely attack humans. They will usually run away if they encounter people.

If you encounter a cougar, the BC government publication, "A Safety Guide to Cougars," advises not to approach the animal. You should back away and leave the cougar an avenue of escape.

Face the cougar and back away slowly (do not run!), while speaking in a calm, confident voice. Do not crouch. Raise your arms to look big and wave sticks or branches if possible.

If the animal behaves aggressively, the safety guide advises throwing rocks and speaking in a loud, firm voice. If attacked you should fight back with whatever is available, including bare fists.

If you spot a cougar on the UVic campus, contact Campus Security at 721-7599. Any off-campus sightings should be reported to the local authorities or the local Conservation Offficer at 474-5544.

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Classes begin at Royal Roads

Education Minister Moe Sihota posing with students and BoG Representative on the first day of classes.

by John Trueman

Education Minister Moe Sihota joined two students in a tree planting ceremony at Royal Roads to commemorate the official opening of B.C.'s newest university.

"Since our government made the commitment to take over this fine facility, many people have worked very hard to make these new programs a reality," said Sihota. "Because of this commitment, today Royal Roads University is a post-secondary institution offering innovative programs like the Master of Arts in leadership and training."

The opening marked the launch of several innovative programs at the former Colwood military college, including a B.Sc. in Environmental Science and a B.Comm. in Entrepreneurial Management.

"We have identified a special niche because we had to do something different," said Nick Rubidge, Royal Roads' administrative vice-president. Graduate students come to the campus in intense five-week summer residencies. They then continue their studies at home throughout the year, maintaining contact with instructors via the internet.

Indeed, the unique structure of the program has broadened the institution's appeal. Students in the M.A. program include elementary and secondary school teachers, college deans, small business owners, entrepreneurs and public sector employees.

"We intend our programs to fill labour market needs, to become self financing and to be complementary to other British Columbia post secondary institutions," said Royal Roads President Gerry Kelly. "We will focus on extending access to post secondary education beyond markets served by traditional residence-based programs."

In the meantime, Royal Roads will continue its partnership with both UVic and Camosun College. UVic began offering courses at the former military college in fall 1995 after it was closed by the federal government as a cost-saving measure. Nineteen first and second-year courses were offered to over 300 students.

The new university plans to diversify in future years. Plans are currently in the works for programs in such areas as environmental management, information technology and conflict management.

Royal Roads is planning for an enrollment of between 2,000 and 3,000 in 10 years, said Rubidge, which will mean that the university will have to construct new facilities to accommodate the new students. The original military campus was only designed for 350.

This opening makes Royal Roads B.C.'s fifth university, after the opening of the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George in 1993. It's enrollment stood at 2,400 last year.

The rapid expansion of B.C.'s university system is due to a huge increase in demand, according to Ministry of Education officials. The government is opening 6,000 new places in colleges and universities to accommodate the additional students.

Haida and Greenpeace halt MacBlo barge

by Carl Stavros

The Haida people combined efforts with Greenpeace activists and successfully halted the operations of MacMillan Bloedel's self-loading log barge, the *Haida Brave,* as it attempted to exit Masset Inlet in the Queen Charlotte Islands on the first of August.

Eight villagers from Old Masset, supported by others in boats and on the shores, paddled a cedar canoe into the inlet and forced the barge to drop anchor. Earlier that morning, Greenpeace activists attempted to stop the loading of the barge by chaining themselves to it, but were eventually forced off.

Several forestry companies, primarily MacMillan Bloedel, have been clearcutting the islands known to the Natives as Haida Gwaii (aka the Queen Charlotte Islands). The protest was mounted in defence of the old growth rainforests. The Haida people claim that the logging of the Queen Charlotte Islands threatens not only the survival of salmon-bearing rivers, a staple of their survival, but, in effect, threatens the existence of the Haida people and their culture.

"Every time the barge goes by loaded with logs, everyone knows and feels it's grand theft taking place, that it's genocide for the Haida people. They take with them our past and our future," said Ralph Stocker, a Haida activist.

The lands being logged are currently under dispute. The Haida Nation is seeking possession of these lands through the treaty process. They are concerned that their livelihood is at stake since they must depend on their environment to sustain their way of life. The logging of Haida Gwaii has produced only 427 jobs in the region, few of which are held by members of the Haida Nation.

MacMillan Bloedel uses the *Haida Brave*, as well as its sister ship the *Haida Monarch*, to ship felled lumber two to three times a week to Lower Mainland and Southern Vancouver Island pulp and paper plants for processing. In each run from the Queen Charlotte Islands, the *Haida Brave* carries the equivalent of 400 logging trucks of cedar, spruce, and hemlock away from the region. In one year, it is estimated that over $200 million worth of forest is cut down and transported, taking jobs and financial gains along with it.

To date, MacMillan Bloedel's financial contributions to the villagers of Old Masset total $15 million toward the building of their community centre.

A week after the August incident, the barge was again confronted by members of Greenpeace and prevented from dumping its load of trees into Howe Sound. Some activists boarded the barge and chained themselves to the crane towers, thus preventing the unloading process. Others hung a banner that read, "MacMillan Bloedel, #1 Rainforest Destroyer."

Greenpeace has stated that it will continue to attempt to stop the barge in order to halt the logging of Haida Gwaii, and calls for full biological and cultural assessments of the region.

Leaked documents cause chaos at Western

by Boyd Erman

CUP Ottawa

A day-long furor erupted at the University of Western Ontario after the Globe and Mail reported July 19 that the university's president wanted to remove student and faculty representation from the university's board of governors. Western president Paul Davenport hurriedly and vehemently denied the accuracy of the comments.

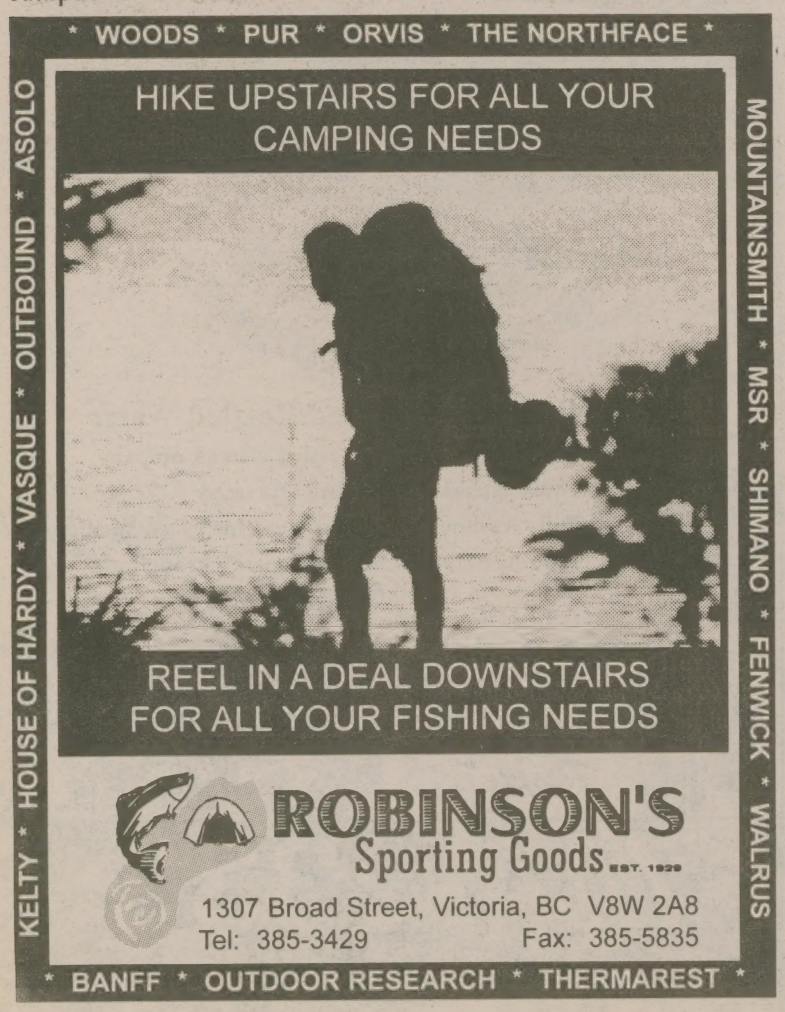
The story came from leaked notes of minutes of a meeting between Davenport and Conservative MPP Terence Young on June 18. They were talking about the review of the university's act which is currently taking place. Every university is chartered by the province with its own act, which is reviewed periodically.

Following the publication of the Globe and Mail story, the Canadian Federation of Students sent a news release condemning Davenport for his remarks.

But Davenport, who was on vacation, released the same day that he said no such thing, only that he suggested the university might be better off with a smaller board of governors which would include proportionally fewer student and faculty representatives,

The explanation seems to have salved relations with students, says Geoffrey Gladdy, president of Western's Society of Graduate Students.

Gladdy, who had also condemned Davenport's remarks in the CFS news release, says that hearing Davenport's explanation he was satisfied it was likely a mistake.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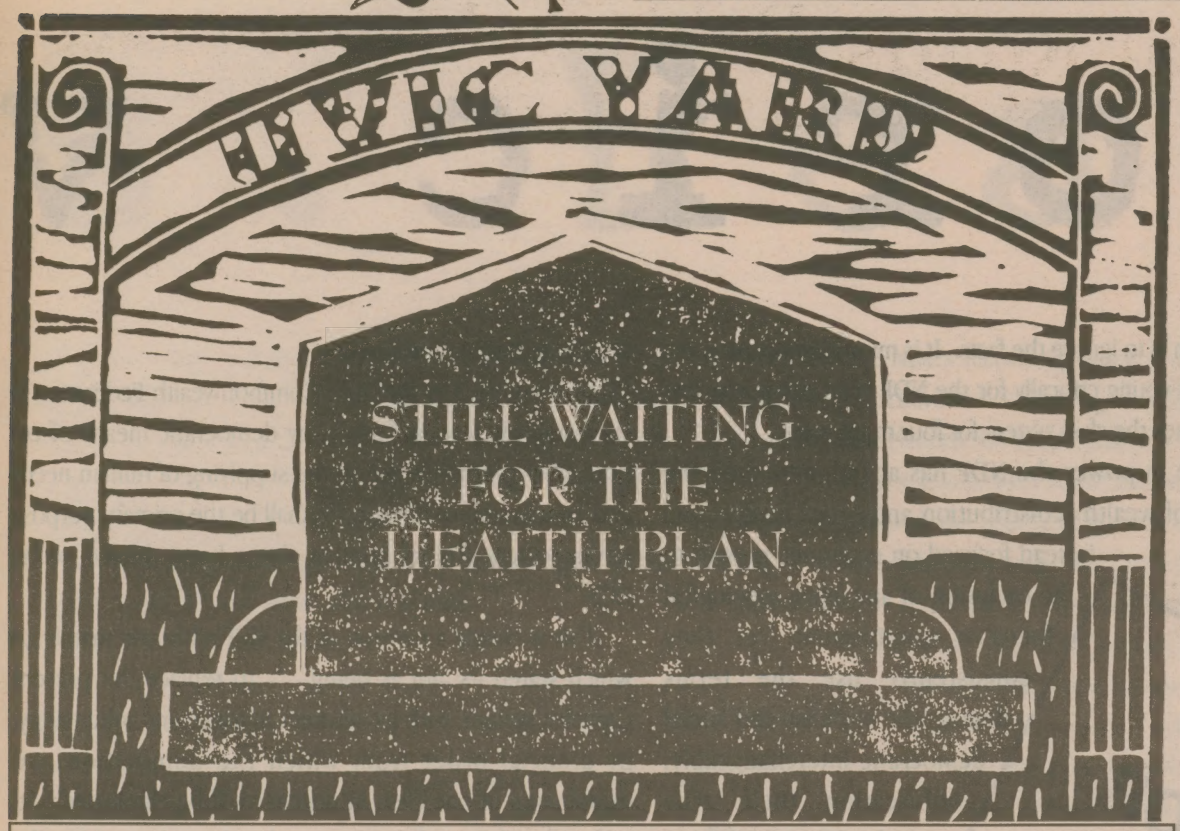

The *Martlet* has an open letters policy and will undertake to print every letter received from members of the university community, with priority to undergraduate students. Letters must be **TYPEWRITTEN** (you can use *Martlet* computers), submitted on disk, or e-mailed, and include your name and phone number for verification. **LETTERS MUST BE 200 WORDS MAXIMUM.** Letters will be reviewed for libel at the *Martlet* editorial meeting, Monday at 4 p.m. on the week of publication. Deadline is Monday noon. Letters will be prioritized in the order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed. Letters will not be edited for spelling or grammar. Announcements will be directed to billboards. Letters can be mailed to Box 3035, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., V8W 3P3, dropped off at SUB B011 or e-mailed to martlet@uvic.ca.

the Martlet

***Quote of the week*:**

"I'm worried students aren't getting top of the line slush" UVSS Director-at-Large, Sebastion Troen on the purchase of a slushie machine for Cinecenta.

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***The Martlet* is an incorporated BC Society and a full member of Canadian University Press (CUP). Our purpose is to act as an agent of constructive social change.**

EDITORIAL

There is a solid division among the members of the University of Victoria Student's Society. The war between the two sides has become the focus of all (extremely limited) discussions that do occur. Actual issues have been put aside or used as "political footballs"; tossed from one side to the other without ever being discussed.

Nowhere is this more evident than the recent battle over the health plan.

Last years Director of Finance (and this years Chair), Ian Flemington, negotiated a new health plan with Aetna Insurance. The plan included a 10 percent increase in prescription coverage, the implimentation of a prescription card system (so that students don't have to wait for their refund to arrive in the mail), and a reduced cost. Flemington did not bother to inform this year's board of the new plan. When board members realized that Flemington had negotiated a plan without informing them they passed motions to have this years Director of Finance, Conrad Thompson cancel the Aetna plan and use it to negotiate a new plan with Sunlife Insurance (the current carrier of the UVSS health plan).

Flemington argued he could not produce the plan if the board was going to use it in further business negotiations. He called such a move "unethical in a business sense."

The board then brought in representatives from the Canadian Federation of Students and Sunlife Insurance (the two work together to provide health insurance that is specifically designed for students).

After discussing concerns that the Aetna plan would not offer the same type of service that UVic currently enjoys from the CFS/Sunlife agreement, they decided to cancel the Aetna plan and re-affirm the Sunlife plan at the same cost as last year and with no savings to students.

There are several issues surrounding the health plan. Because this years board is so busy mistrusting each other and arguing about who is "PRO-CFS" and who is "ANTI-CFS" they have failed to address all of these issues.

The childish nature in which board meetings are conducted is a pathetic representation of the political climate within the SUB. Directors point fingers and lay blame about any and all issues without any regard for the effect this has on the students.

The board must accept their differences and begin to work together if they plan to gain any support or respect from the students who elected them.

Editorial topics are decided by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Martlet, *SUB B011. Editorials are written by one or more staff members; opinions are not necessarily those of all staff.*

Editors:

The engineering publication, *Tubes and Wires*, is infinitely superior to *the Martlet*. *The Martlet* budget should be refunded to needy students and everyone should read *Tubes and Wires* and *The Bag*.

Sincerely;
Bruce MacNeil

Editors:

I would like to make a comment on your lead story in the June 20th issue of *the Martlet*. In the last column of this story there is a sentence that reads: "The offer also includes a cut to benefits for full time hours which could impact the amount of hours offered to part-time employees." I know I am not alone when I say that the use of the word "impact" as a verb is extremely irritating, not to mention entirely incorrect. Regrettably, this sort of usage is becoming common in the media, but what is such appalling English doing in a university publication? Did the editors actually pass their English entrance requirements or did they not notice this meaningless sentence on the front page? Watch your language, please, and try to set a good example.

Brian Budenski

Editors:

I fail to find ANY factual information in this artical (RCMP Lies Revealed July 18, 1996). in it, you accuse the RCMP of planning mass murder and in utilizing military explosives, ie: landmines, to attempt the murder of persons wanted for criminal activities. You also go so far as to accuse the RCMP of staging a false shooting incident and wounding one of their own members in order to cast public opinion (and I assume the courts as well) against the aboriginals who ARE engaged in criminal activities.

Perhaps instead of casting false statements about and carrying out these incomprehensible actions, you should exercise some journalistic responsibility and integrety and look for the TRUTH. Or has the truth become the latest victim to the ego of your correspondant?

Who or what will be the next target of the poisoned pen your paper wields? Not content to strike out blindly at those who are pledged to defend our society (they're no angels but certainly not the ogre's you've made themout to be!) will you next attack the concept of motherhood?

It was once said, in the days of the Roman Empire; that no one enjoyed a privilidged position in society. but rather that the degree's of responsibility varied, increasing commensurate with the person's status.

Since your responsibility towards society is markedly low, is this an indication of the status which your membership is entitled?

William P. Sparling, SR.

Dear Editors,

How ironic that the July 18/96 *Martlet* emphasized that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Pride Parade was "reality, not a freak show", only to present transsexuality as a disease in "Time for Change" on the following page.

In the article the author suggests that transgenderism results from trauma to the fetus or "neurological abnormalities". Why does the author assume that transgendered people are damaged in some way? That this society's definitions of 'male' and 'female' are normal, or healthy?

I support efforts to make a range of surgical/hormonal options accessible to all transgendered people - including people who are labelled sexually "perverse" by so-called 'experts' in "Time for Change". I cannot, however, support any model that presents transgenderism as a sickness, or presents surgery/hormones as "the hope and promise" we need in order to stay sane. In order to stay sane, transgendered people do indeed need change - we need society to change, to stop forcing people into narrow categories of 'male' and 'female' and to stop harassing and discriminating those of us who visibly deviate from this society's rigid gender codes.

I am somewhat transgendered and am considering surgical/hormonal modifications to my body. I do not wish to "become" anything or anyone other than who I am. I am not gender "dysphoric". It is the mainstream world that seems to have a problem with my gender blending, not me.

We are not freaks. We are not sick. We do not need to be cured.

Sincerely,
Mira Goldberg

Editors:

I am thoroughly disgusted with the way that the Board of Directors is handling the UVSS Health Plan.

Why should Ian Flemington be censured for doing his job properly? As Director of Finance, part of his job was to oversee the health plan. Ian is preventing an extra $7 from going out of every student's pocket while at the same time allowing for a health plan which pays for 80% of all health care coverage up front.

The bottom line is that Ian was not abusing his position, he was fulfilling his job requirements. Whereas the health plan was concerned, he obtained a higher quality health plan at no extra charge to the students. If anything, he should be commended and praised for doing his job properly!!!

Who cares if he did not consult with the UVSS before going to AETNA, is it his mandate to do that? If it is, why even bother requiring him to negociate the health plan?

I think that the reason the UVSS BoD is against Ian's action is that he did not negociate the health plan the right way (ie with the CFS acting as a broker). Because of Ian's top quality performance as Director of Finance, the CFS is not getting $38,000 out of the new health plan. (I'd like to know how much they're getting in total from negociating health plans with other CFS based schools)

Why the hell is the CFS (which does NOT speak for me) getting a cut out of this deal anyway? We're already paying them enough out of our UVSS fees and have twice voted against increasing our contributions to these individuals. For that matter, I don't think that we should even be in the CFS.

I guess what this goes to show is that the duly elected members of the Board of Directors who are censuring Ian really do not represent us, but are rather the pawns of a self proclaimed national student organization whose executive members are only interested in lining their pockets with our hard earned money.

Joel Casselman

Editors:

I am writing this letter with respect to the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG). I have two comments:

1. Of all the UVSS positions I am glad to see that a VIPIRG part-time employee will be earning a meagre $18.20 per hour. I suppose this is a meagre award for their outstanding work that outshadows all other operations of the UVSS (including the BOD); and

2. I am proud to see that VIPIRG is adhering to their Constitutional mandate and providing the opportunity for summer students to gain their refund of VIPIRG fees by running the refund period on 18 August; just one day before FINALS end (14 days after the last day of classes).

Yours Truly
Ian Rennie

Rhetoric v

With the narrow victory of the NDP in the last provincial election, May 28, 1996, many social justice activists and those with legitimate fears of what a Liberal win would mean to their lives breathed a sigh of relief that we didn't end up with something worse. But are the NDP any better? Electoral politics has become big business and the needs of the working-class and working-poor are being fundamentally ignored by all the parties. This alienation not only of labour, but whole classes of people, needs to be addressed, and I am convinced that the system as it stands is incapable of being proactive on these issues. In order to begin dismantling our current society's oppressive structures we need to understand why we keep perpetuating them. With most media operating with day-to-day historical amnesia, an historical look at the roots of the NDP and how they became just another right wing party is essential.

When looking at the current New Democratic government in BC it is difficult to imagine that the liberalism of Mike Harcourt's and now Glen Clark's New Democratic Party (NDP) has any link to the its predecessor, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), and they were only modestly radical for the time. The CCF-NDP has achieved a certain mythical status, from the founding principles of the Regina Manifesto, to the oratorical skills of Tommy Douglas, to the claims of being the only party supporting "ordinary" Canadians; politically the NDP has perpetuated the notion that they are socialist.

Much historical debate around the CCF-NDP has centred on whether they were a socialist or a populist party and to what degree they were either at any given time. This debate has largely ignored the BC NDP's role in corrupt forest practices, introducing work-fare, cutting welfare payments, targeting immigrants through regressive residency requirements, strike breaking, stealing from charities and setting up a virtual police state in Gustafson Lake. The pro-capitalist and genocidal policies of the BC NDP have largely been ignored by those calling themselves "progressive". The common rhetoric is that "the other guys are worse". This has allowed the perpetuation of a myth that is detrimental to the formation of a truly alternative political party or structure being formed. The longer this myth is perpetuated the longer we will have parties that may have fine rhetoric while campaigning, but in the end are still coercing us, jailing us and denying us basic human rights. To continue the historical fallacy that the NDP under Harcourt or Clark is anything other than liberal reform capitalism is to ignore the facts. It is my contention that the notion of voting critically for the NDP is an oxymoron that perpetuates the class system for four more years.

While in power the NDP has abandoned even the pretext of wealth redistribution and social justice, and instead focused on economic growth to the exclusion of any leftist ideological focus or commitment. Yet, they consistently use the terms democratic socialist and social democratic interchangeably, obfuscating their true agenda. The BC NDP has consistently moved further to the right with every year they have been in power, to the point that it must be clear to every one that the only ideology being followed is a pro-capitalist one. So why are people still voting for them, working for them and defending them? It is a question that warrants critical evaluation and a historical look at their record.

The somewhat socialist language of the Regina Manifesto – the CCF's original statement of their aims and principles – is often cited as a source of pride from those within the party. However, the language of the Regina Manifesto has long been purged from the NDP's vocabulary. The Winnipeg Declaration, which replaced the Regina Manifesto in 1956, was a far less radical document than the original and far less threatening to capitalist interests. The notion of nationalisation had been replaced with public ownership, and it contained no reference to class. The Winnipeg Declaration reversed and purged the more confrontational claims of the Regina Manifesto. One example of this type of revisionist history is how each of the documents describe the aims of the CCF document. The Winnipeg Declaration states:

"The aim of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation is the establishment in Canada by democratic means of co-operative commonwealth in the supplying of human needs and enrichment of human life shall be the primary purpose of our society...This is, and has always been, the aim of the CCF."

This is clearly a revision of the CCF's historic manifesto which stated its aim as being, "...to replace the present capitalist system, with its inherent injustice and inhumanity, by a social order from which the domination and exploitation of one class by another will be eliminated." So in fact the shift to the right was already evident within the CCF.

After Diefenbaker's overwhelming Conservative victory in the 1958 federal election, the CCF attempted to reorganise. The result was a coalition between the Canadian Labour Congress and the CCF which became at first the New Party and then the New Democratic Party. The New Party Declaration, which would be the NDP's manifesto until 1983, purged all references to class and socialism. The New Party Declaration contains no references to socialism, socialist, class, capitalism, imperialism, nationalisation or socialisation. This in itself reveals how far the party had changed by the time it became known as the NDP as opposed to the CCF. In 1983 a new Regina manifesto was written in an attempt to revitalise the party. The term socialist was put back in, but it has received little distribution and the new manifesto mentions class only twice and rarely addresses capitalism (only once).

An examination of the NDP should include the Waffle movement. The Waffle was formed within the NDP by those disaffected by the lack of any socialist analysis within the party. They introduced their manifesto at the 1969 NDP federal convention. The Waffle's aim was to "...build an independent socialist Canada. Our aim as supporters of the New Democratic Party is to make it a truly socialist party." Even critics of the Waffle have admitted that they attracted keen support within the NDP, from between 30-40 percent of the NDP membership federally. Despite the support of the grass roots within the party, the Waffle was eventually purged. Many disaffected grass roots activists left the party for good and continued on alternative political projects that weren't as compromised. Unfortunately a few became confused and joined the liberals years later. The purge of the Waffle was a sign of the way things were to be in the NDP.

The pro–capitalist and genocidal policies of the BC NDP have been ignored by those calling themselves "progressive."

The BC NDP since 1991 has behaved as any capitalist party does in power, repressing citizens rights and making profit from their power. The NDP's investment in Mac-Blo,

The NDP

s. Reality

continued clear cutting and their much publicised theft of charity funds have been well documented, so I will outline three fundamental human rights abuses that are unconscionable and have been all but buried by the NDP and a complicit capitalist society.

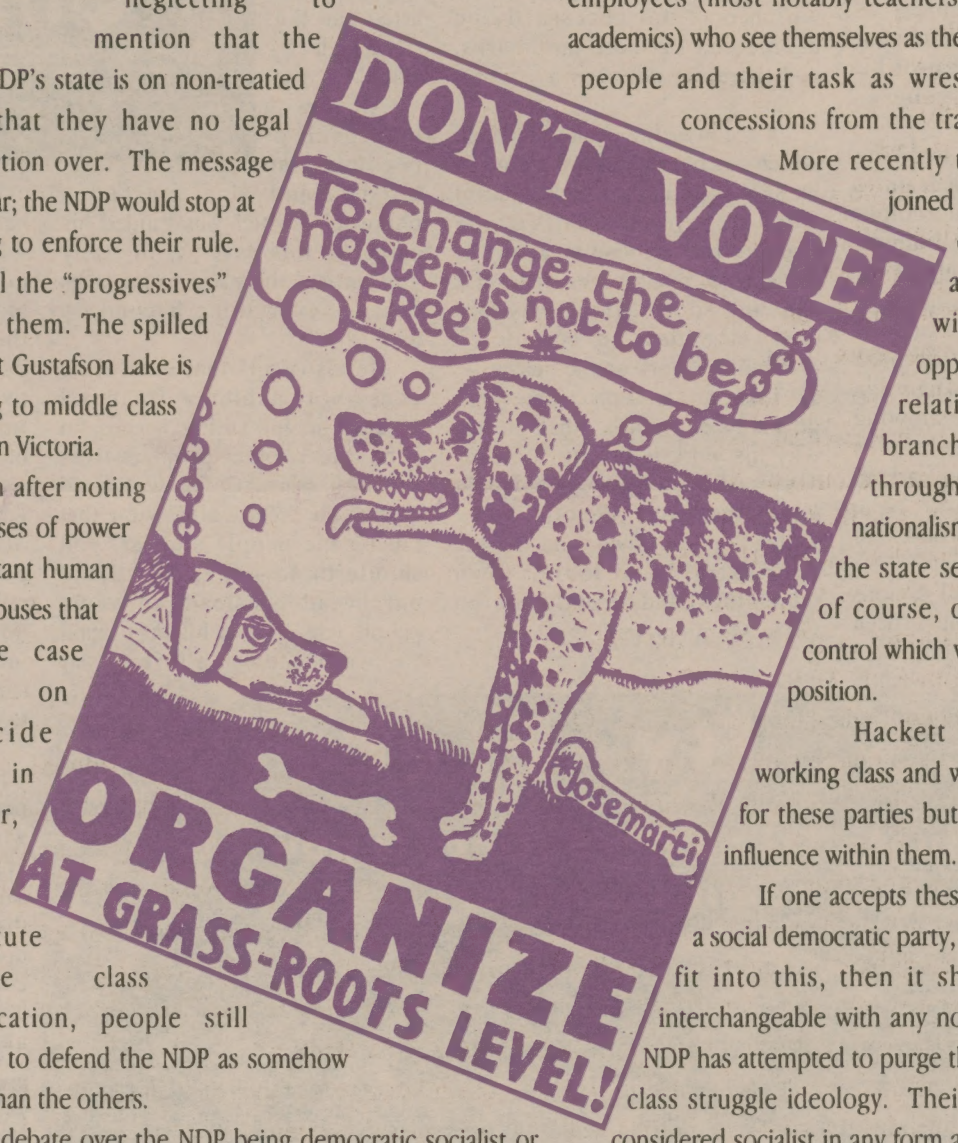
Perhaps the most recent violation of human rights by the NDP is their "BC Benefits" which is their euphemism for welfare cuts. The BC Benefits program is a thin guise for work-fare and takes money from the poorest in our society. Under the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) Canadians were entitled five basic rights: the right to income when in need; the right to an amount of income that takes into account budgetary requirements, the right not to have to work or train for welfare; the right to appeal decisions about income assistance and the right to income assistance regardless of province of origin. The federal government is also attacking these rights, but the BC NDP has already violated three of these rights with BC Benefits. The youth works program in BC Benefits requires those under twenty-five to work or train for benefits which is work-fare (even though the NDP denies this), and it clearly violates CAP. The BC benefits program also cuts the payments of single people across the board, leaving such a low monthly amount ($500 a month) that it violates CAP. The third violation of CAP, imposing a three month residency requirement, raised so much opposition that it was repealed. The NDP ran an election based on scaring the population about the cuts the Liberals would impose, they neglected to mention that the NDP themselves had been continually violating our rights.

Another measure of the NDP's lack of regard for the rights of the working-class and the poor has been how often they have passed strike breaking legislation, denying workers their only democratic means of recourse against employers. The most recent example is Bill 21, The Education and Health Collective Bargaining Assistance Act, passed before the election to ensure that a strike wouldn't mar the NDP's re-election bid. Contrary to the conciliatory name of the act, it gave the government the right to order teachers and health care workers back to work. Which is exactly what the NDP did, teachers before the election were ordered to accept a contract and health care workers after the election were forced back to work. Because when Clark and his bunch won, they didn't repeal the act, and it remained in force until June 30, 1996. Therefore the NDP could use it a few more times to impose their will on workers that are supposed to have the right to collective bargaining. But the history in this regard has never been good, remember when Dave Barrett (the other BC NDP premier) legislated 60,000 wood workers back to work in 1975.

While the the NDP's record regarding those on welfare and striking workers has been deplorable, the NDP's approach to First Nations has been deadly. While they have entered into negotiations with some nations, those who refuse to bargain with the provincial government because it infringes on the fiduciary responsibility of the Federal government to settle these issues, are being meet with deadly force. The RCMP's police state tactics at Gustafson Lake last summer (1995) were the most expensive police operation this province has ever witnessed. The NDP Attorney-General stated that, "the state reserves the inherent right to use force", neglecting to mention that the NDP's state is on non-treatied lands that they have no legal jurisdiction over. The message was clear; the NDP would stop at nothing to enforce their rule. Yet still the "progressives" defend them. The spilled blood at Gustafson Lake is nothing to middle class whites in Victoria.

The spilled blood at Gustafsen Lake is nothing to middle class whites in Victoria

Even after noting the abuses of power and blatant human rights abuses that in one case border on genocide and in another, constitute extreme class stratification, people still manage to defend the NDP as somehow better than the others.



The debate over the NDP being democratic socialist or social democrat is an important one because each term implies something different. The term democratic socialist implies that the NDP are in some way socialist. It also implies that any other form of socialism is inherently undemocratic. The term social democratic implies a more reform liberal orientation, like the Democratic party in United States, and is thus less confrontational. It is advantageous to the NDP to use these terms interchangeably. When talking to more militant unionists the term democratic socialist is appealing, and when looking for business investors and private enterprise support the term social democrat is usefully ambiguous. The NDP wants to be seen as an alternative to the more established Conservative and Liberal parties however in reality they are not much different than those who define themselves as "left liberals". The semantics are important to the NDP because they cannot realistically call themselves liberals if they want to maintain appeal to the electorate that rejects what the Liberal party represents. The most accurate definition of social democratic parties that I have encountered is Robert Hacket's in his examination of the Ontario waffle in a special edition of Canadian Dimension. He outlines the three major elements in the membership and control of a social democratic party:

a) the trade union bureaucracy and the labour aristocracy of well-paid workers who occupy a relatively privileged economic position;

b)certain segments of the petty bourgeoisie and white collar employees (most notably teachers, lawyers, clergymen, academics) who see themselves as the representatives of the people and their task as wresting (ameliorative) concessions from the traditional ruling class.

More recently this group has been joined by;

c)managers and administrators who wish to improve their opportunities (which are relatively restricted in a branch plant economy) through moderate economic nationalism and the expansion of the state sector economy–short, of course, of genuine workers' control which would undermine their position.

Hackett concedes that the working class and working poor may vote for these parties but they have little or no influence within them.

If one accepts these as the parameters of a social democratic party, and the NDP definitely fit into this, then it should in no way be interchangeable with any notion of socialism. The NDP has attempted to purge the term socialism of its class struggle ideology. Their insistence on being considered socialist in any form and the academics who perpetuate this myth are wilfully creating a false consciousness that eliminates and denigrates true alternatives for the working-class and the working poor while insisting that theirs is the only legitimate form of political change despite all the evidence to the contrary. The sad thing is that those who are active within the NDP know this. Some hope to change it; others want to profit from it; all of them help to perpetuate the type of friendly fascism that capitalist enterprise relies on in this increasingly globalised market economy.

by John-Henry Harter

in B.C.

Arts & Entertainment

Hand waves at Demitasse

by Mike Chilton

In one of many comparisons, he describes his work as something between childlike and a prayer, and defines Zen as achieving your "true" lifestyle.

His name is Keith McKellar, a Victoria artist who has worked for the past 15-plus years as an advertising artist, a freelance artist, and ultimately an artist in love with the mere freedom of his lifestyle. But he's better known to friends and colleagues as Laughing Hand (or simply Hand by many close to him).

Laughing Hand is based in Victoria, working briefly in Vancouver every so often. A collection of his drawings are currently being shown at Demitasse until "somewhere around the end of the summer," as McKellar put it. The casual showing is a retrospective of his work with some pieces going as far back as early 1982.

McKellar's, aka Laughing Hand's, "show" – which features enough pencil, ink, watercolour and paint drawings to fill almost all three rooms of the cafe at the corner of Johnson and Blanshard – started around the end of June and has created a growing buzz surrounding McKellar's name in local art circles as this showing raises the number of places currently displaying his work in Victoria to three: QV Bakery, The Parsonage Cafe in Fernwood, and Demitasse.

Laughing Hand's most famous pieces of work to date have been his design for the neon sign which hung outside the Smiling Buddha Cabaret in Vancouver for the better part of a decade until the venue was closed down over five years ago, and his "Women on Beach," which was published as the cover to a popular underground magazine in Vancouver in 1987. Both pieces can be seen at the Demitasse exhibition.

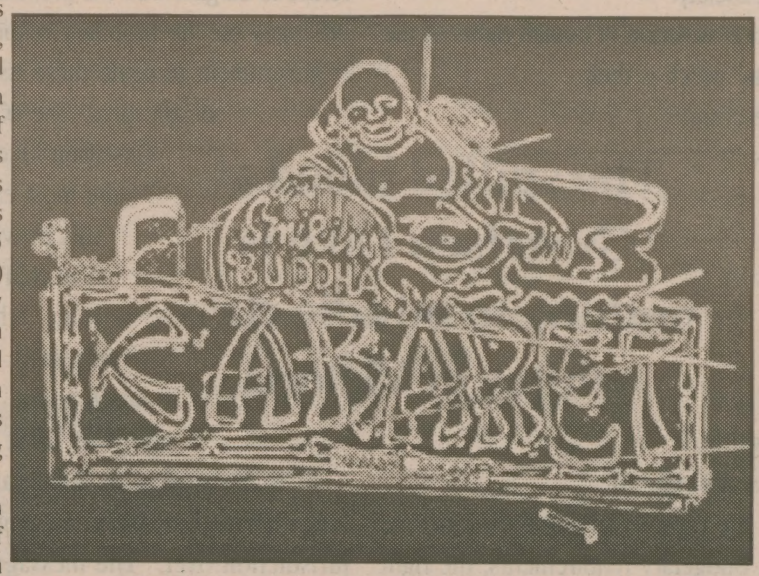
From time to time, Laughing Hand can be seen about town, sitting for hours meditatively drawing what is before him. For the most part, his recent work has consisted of landmark architecture and buildings of interest -- mainly cafes or street scenes because, as he says, he sees them as the places where "dreamtime" takes place. However, Laughing Hand also sees his more recent work as having an importance in preserving the architectural legacy of this area, by drawing structures which may not necessarily be deemed as heritage landmarks, and therefore not seen as "worth saving."

"I see myself as being the hand which catches the falling plum," he said in reference to his recent work depicting the old Victoria Foundry (not on display at any of the shows, but may be seen at a showing soon), which was torn down the day he completed preliminary work on the piece.

That particular piece shows, as do many of Hand's other pieces, why his work is gaining a broad-base acceptance around town; it shows the "real" Victoria, a city with its guard down, and not the over-extravagant tourist town which TV-Land recently saw on Good Morning America.

As for his monicker "Laughing Hand," McKellar explained, "That is something that came about by its own invention... the rebirth of the artist within me." Rather than holding onto something, the sense of letting go and the letting go is a kind of healing."

It is only in the last fifteen years that Hand has perceived his drawings as being "art". It was only at the age of 35, after shaking his addictions, that Hand transcended a string of meaningless short jobs (his guess was about 65 different jobs) in many professions in the arts, and became an artist and thus "Laughing Hand."



Along with his ideal of becoming an artist, Hand also grasped a philosophy which has guided his career to this day: "With really great artists, there are no mistakes because everything becomes a joy."

He also feels that even if he does not achieve financial success, he will still be successful if he affects other people's lives through his art. He wants to change the "real world" view that "to be the people's artist, you should be loved, accepted and purchased." Instead, he wants people who look at his art to gain "a love of life and a love of self through a love of his work."

Hand's medium of choice has always been pencil on paper because he felt it hearkened back to the charcoal drawings he saw on trees in Prince George forty years ago, made by the native peoples years before. In the last year, he has started experimenting with charcoal-style drawings himself because of the raw energy he feels the medium conveys.

The day I talked with Hand, he had just completed a drawing of the Roxy Cinegogue, which was done with a charred end of a broken twig. The effect created by the twig was that of the main outline of the image along with two, sometimes three, "ghost" images alongside, creating an otherworldly effect to the piece.

Because he is happy with the way his recent experiments with other media have gone, he is going to try creating his work with new materials in hopes that he can eventually pull his work into the three-dimensional realm successfully. He sees multimedia works in his near future.

"[Art is] surrendering to whatever happens, rather than being apprehensive. Anticipating what it does to you, how it makes you feel and where it takes you," said Hand in reference to the fact that his recent pieces, such as his drawing of the Roxy, have been completed in as little as a three-hour sitting. Despite this, he is also known to spend weeks on larger full-sheet pieces.

It is not uncommon for Laughing Hand to bike to a certain area of town, such as the Inner Harbour, with drawings in tow in a modest-looking wagon, and set up a hit-and-run-style street showing, a process which he said consists of setting up his art for people to see, impressing the onlookers, selling a couple of pieces, and packing up and moving on just as quickly. All this is done with a no-nonsense approach which he seems to live life with. He has made a thousand dollars in sales on his best day of street showings.

This style of guerrilla art-showing is his way of battling the misnomer that "artists are deadbeats," and he compared the spectacle to a deft melding of political statement and highwire act.

After completing over one thousand drawings (and doing as many street shows) in fifteen years, Hand feels he has only begun: "I'm just finishing up my apprenticeship, in my own mind."

Future plans for Laughing Hand include biking down to California to have a showing of his more recent pieces, where he hopes he will fetch enough money to allow him to live his lifestyle of creation for a while longer.

In the meantime, anyone who is interested in seeing the work of a true philosopher-artist should go down to any of the three aforementioned local cafes or look for Laughing Hand, aka Keith McKellar, around town showing his work from the back of his wagon -- that is before his work is in exclusive art galleries, going for a king's ransom.

"...I want to dispel the myth that not all artists can be the best artists in their own lifetime...I know I'm good, I just have yet to be discovered."

G.S.S. By-Election
The Graduate Student's Society is now taking nominations for:
President
Nominations close 5:00pm
Wednesday, September 11, 1996
Forms available in rooms 102 & 106 of the Grad Centre
Elections will take place September 19 & 20
@ the George and Ida Halpern Centre for Graduate Students
More information regarding duties & remuneration is available in rooms 102 & 106 of the Grad Centre

Filthy Pistols good for a laugh

by Eric Morten

The Sex Pistols
Filthy Lucre Live
Virgin/EMI

"Fat, 40 and back." That's John Lydon (aka J. Rotten) telling it like it is on the new live recording taken from The Sex Pistols' 1996 tour. Now just sit and wait for the Pistols "Unplugged" CD to come out.

Filthy Lucre is recorded at Finsbury Park, London, with the late Sid Vicious replaced by original bassist Glen Matlock, who was kicked out in the 'seventies because he "wanted to make the band more fun." The CD is basically a rehash of the same dozen or so songs that were on the first Pistols album and on every subsequent money-grubbing effort.

Now before I say that the Pistols are no better than Henley, Clapton and the rest of the boring icons from the era of music's demise with their last-ditch cash grabs, I have to say that, musically, they are definitely no worse. In fact, although I could spend hours dissing them for their motives, I like the CD. They've never sounded better live.

I fully intend to go to their show on August 31 in Vancouver just to yell, "You suck!" and have a really good time. You should too.

Guess Who has a new album out?

by Paddy Lane

Burton Cummings played at "The Planet" last Wednesday evening. The self-proclaimed local boy delighted the capacity crowd with all his old standards, all of which were met with rounds of thunderous applause. There was even the occasional person gasping in delight as he played "These Eyes," "Scared" and "Laughing."

The show was part of a promotional tour for his newly released CD, *Up Close and Personal*. The album features his songs with the same "unplugged" treatment he was performing that night.

The record has already gone to gold status in Canada and is on its way to platinum. According to the artist: "You know the older I get, the prettier these gold records look."

Burton played solo for almost 90 minutes straight pausing only long enough to wipe the sweat from his brow and set up the next tune. The crowd responded by giving him a standing ovation at the end of the night.

Burton came back for two encore performances, one of which he played "Clap for The Wolfman," a song written for Wolfman Jack, Burton's former friend.

In one phrase – the show was great! I've only been a mild Burton fan before, but after seeing him play live, I've re-discovered part of myself. And why not? After all, the entire audience, including myself, sang along with every song that was played .

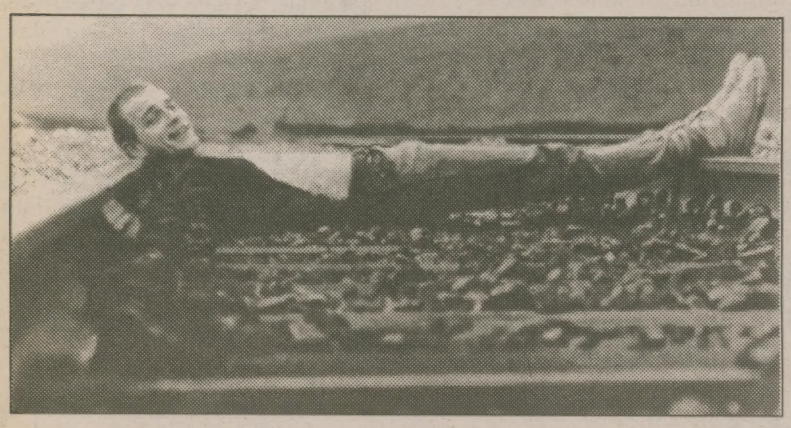
Although the signs outside "The Planet" still read "Harpo's," the inside has been completely renovated and filled with a staff that actually seems to care about its customers. This attitude seemed to start with Deborah Cameron, the bar's new owner. She personally greeted people as they came through the door, and wouldn't leave until saying good-night to all of her staff. With this kind of talent performing and the excellent service, "The Planet" may prosper where others have failed.

Choose Trainspotting

by Patricia Murray

Trainspotting
Danny Boyle

Choose life. Choose a job. Choose a career. Choose a family. Choose a fucking big television, choose washing machines, cars, compact disc players and electrical tin openers . . . Choose good health, low cholesterol, and dental insurance . . . Choose sitting on that couch watching mind-numbing, spirit-crushing game shows, stuffing junk food into your mouth. Choose rotting away at the end of it all, pishing your last in a miserable home, nothing more than an embarrassment to the selfish, fucked-up brats you spawned to replace yourself. Choose your future. Choose life.



Trainspotting, the new film directed by Danny Boyle (*Shallow Grave*), has been called a modern *Clockwork Orange* and this year's *Pulp Fiction*. It has already become Britain's second-highest grossing film in the UK (after *Four Weddings and a Funeral*).

This film is deemed controversial by the media because it does not moralize drug use (nor for that matter does it glamorize drug use). *Trainspotting* gives the audience the opportunity to experience heroin from a safe, yet realistic and sincere perspective, like a fly-on-the-wall. Screenwriter John Hodge (*Shallow Grave*) says about the film, "It's an honest portrayal of the highs and consequences."

Adapted from Irvine Welsh's novel of the same name, *Trainspotting* is a dark comedy about a group of twenty-something Scottish addicts and their experience with heroin as they either travel down the inevitable path of self-destruction and/or make a desperate attempt to "choose life."

At one point in the movie, heroin is described as "taking your best orgasm and multiplying it by a thousand, and heroin is even better than that," while other parts of the film display disturbing and degrading imagery of heroin use, such as one character diving headfirst into "the worst toilet in Scotland" to retrieve his stash. Since both sides of heroin use are depicted, the audience is left decide for themselves whether or not to "just say no!"

The film's anti-hero, Renton, played by Ewan McGregor (*Shallow Grave, Emma*), tries unsuccessfully throughout the whole movie to redeem his life and kick his addiction. Renton preaches to the audience in the beginning of the movie to "choose life" because he didn't until almost too late. "I chose not to choose life," Renton states. "I chose something else. And the reasons? There are no reasons. Who needs reasons when you've got heroin?" *Trainspotting* is the story of Renton's experiences with heroin before he decided to choose life.

The other addicts in the film include Sick Boy, played by Jonny Lee Miller (*Hackers*); Spud, played by Ewen Bremner; Tommy, played by Kevin Kidd; Diane, played by newcomer, Kelly Macdonald; and Begbie, played by Robert Carlyle. Each of these characters suffers from a different addiction. Sick Boy, the sardonic narcissist is addicted to Sean Connery's James Bond, women and himself. Spud is the sweet but pathetic heroin addict. Tommy, the most honest and naive of Renton's friends, is addicted to his body and obsessed with Iggy Pop. Diane is the overtly mature teenager addicted to sex. And finally Begbie, the psychopathic alcoholic, is addicted to fighting: "Begbie didn't do drugs, he just did people."

I recommend *Trainspotting* with the warning that it is not for everyone. Some may be offended (or sickened) by its truthful and descriptive portrayal of heroin use, while others will enjoy its realism. It is a movie that makes you question your own life.

Choose life. Choose not to conform. Choose an intellectual movie. Choose *Trainspotting*!

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Cinecenta opens with a grand festival

by Patrick Lane

Cinecenta re-opened on Sunday, August 11 and is kicking things off with a Summer Film Festival premiering such films as *Heidi Fliess: Hollywood Madam* and *I Shot Andy Warhol*.

The newly renovated theatre boasts a new box office and "Munchie Bar" colourfully lit by new neon signs. A new ventilation system has been installed, as well as a vestibule to cut down on noise and light into the viewing area.

Changes in the projection booth have made this festival possible. A five-tiered platter system has been installed saving the time of having to rewind movies. This also avoids possibly damaging the prints through constant handling. The cinema's sound system was updated to Dolby quality last year; now any money made will go towards replacing the original seats. The new "Munchie Bar" offers not only cappucino and espresso, but also Slush Puppies. It will be open during the day once classes resume in September.

The film festival runs through August 24th. All of the films are first runs in Victoria, meaning that this is the first and possibly only chance to see them on the big screen. Each film is only screened twice in order to accomodate the festival's entire line-up.

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Was Kurt Cobain murdered?

by Christopher Morabito

It has been 859 days since the death of Kurt Cobain.

The cover story in the April 1996 issue of *High Times* magazine, "Who Killed Kurt Cobain?" addresses some of the evidence that suggests that Cobain did not commit suicide but was the victim of murder. Most of the evidence comes from Tom Grant, the private investigator Courtney Love hired to find Cobain after he left a California rehab on April 1, 1994.

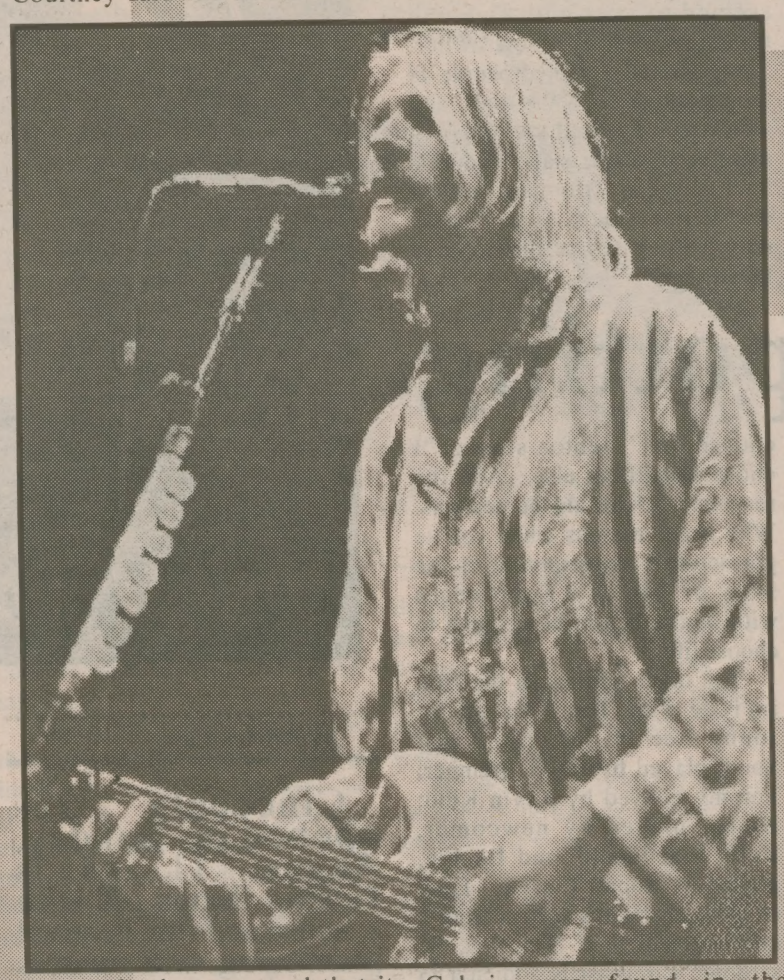
Before his death Cobain had rejected an offer of $9.5 million to headline the Lollapalooza Tour, a decision which Love resented. He was also, according to Grant, preparing to divorce Courtney and leave the music business. Grant claims that the so-called suicide note was really a note written to Kurt's fans announcing his retirement, which was amended later to make it appear to be a suicide note to Courtney and his daughter Frances. Cobain had also contacted Rosemary Carroll, an attorney of Love and Cobain, and asked that Love be removed from his will. Love also called Carroll. She wanted to know if the prenuptial agreement could be voided.

Events leading up to April 8, 1994.

Grant was hired April 3 to locate whoever was using Cobain's credit card, a job which he told Love she could easily do herself. What he did not know at the time, and what Courtney did not tell him, was that Cobain had been seen the day before, on April 2 at his home by Frances' nanny Michael "Cali" DeWitt. Grant took the job anyway, subcontracted a P.I. firm in Seattle for surveillance of Cobain's Lake Washington home and the location of a drug dealer supplied by Love. So began the odyssey which has led Grant to conclude that Cobain was murdered.

On April 4 1994, a missing persons report was filed by someone claiming to be Cobain's mother, Wendy O'Connor. The report reads: "Mr. Cobain ran away from a California facility and flew back to Seattle. He also bought a shotgun and may be suicidal. Mr. Cobain may be at ===== location for narcotics." It was this report that planted the seed that Cobain was suicidal. However, the shotgun in question, found on Cobain's body, was purchased on March 30 by Cobain and his friend Dylan Carson because Cobain was afraid of intruders at his house. Furthermore, this missing person's report was phoned in to Seattle dispatch from California where Love was staying. Cobain's mother was in Aberdeen at the time of the call. Efforts to hear this tape have been made by Richard Lee, a Seattle journalist who has been airing a public-access TV show, "Kurt Cobain Was Murdered" since April 13, 1994. However, police have not allowed him to hear this tape because the woman who made this call requested that the call remain private.

Still on April 4, Grant began calling hotels in Seattle looking for Kurt. Grant thought that he had located him under one of his aliases. Grant claims that Courtney told him that she did not want Kurt to know she was looking for him, and later, during a telephone conversation, Courtney said she talked to the



person in the room and that it wasn't Kurt. Later, again by phone, according to Grant, Love told him that Cobain was suicidal. "Everybody thinks he's going to die," she said.

On April 6 Grant went to Seattle to look for Cobain with Dylan Carson, Cobain's friend. Grant writes that he and Carson checked Cobain's dealer's house and then hotels that Kurt was known to stay in occasionally. When they went to the Lake Washington house at 2:15 AM April 7 it was raining heavily. Grant says that Carson went to the house alone and came back five minutes later saying that nobody was there.

Carson then called Courtney and asked her to call the security company to have the alarm turned off so they could enter the house. They did not find Kurt in the house and so they called Courtney again at Rosemary Carroll's. Then Courtney returned to her hotel where she called 911 and planted a story of her overdosing. She was later arrested on April 7.

Grant spoke with Carroll on the morning of April 7. She told him that while Courtney talked to Dylan, she instructed him to specifically check the greenhouse.

On April 8 Grant and Carson traveled to the Carnation property Cobain and Love owned outside Seattle. They stopped for gas and Carson made a phone call. He returned to the car, informing Grant that a friend had just told him that a body was found at the Lake Washington house. They turned on the radio. It was announced that the body of Kurt Cobain was found in the greenhouse. Grant says that Carson did not react to this news; and when asked what the greenhouse was and why they did not check there, Carson said that it was just a dirty little room above the garage. Later, in the May 11 issue of the Seattle times, Carson said that he didn't even know there was a room above the garage "associated with the house."

Grant told *High Times*, "There's no doubt in my mind that Kurt was hanging out up there with a shotgun. That was like a little look-out tower for him over his whole property, and I do firmly believe that he was in fear of his life. He was going to be flying out of Seattle within hours, certainly within the next day or two. So he was up there and whoever came in there with him was probably doing drugs with him until they got him loaded. He had three times the lethal dose of heroin in his system (at the time of his death). Now that doesn't necessarily mean he would have died from that dose, but it certainly would have put him out.

"It's highly unlikely that he would shoot himself up in both arms, put the needle away in his little kit, and then have the mental capacity to sit there and and manipulate this shotgun and shoot himself. If he wasn't unconscious, he was at least to the point where he wasn't aware of what was going on. Anybody could have done anything with him."

Media and police reports

The initial reports that were released to the media had Cobain fleeing the rehab, flying back to Seattle, suicidal, purchasing a shotgun, and then disappearing. Cobain's head was said to have been blown off and his driver's license was found next to his body, as if he had done this so he could be positively identified.

Cobain had purchased the shotgun before going to rehab. The date is known to police because the receipt for the shotgun was found in the greenhouse. The electrician who found Cobain said that when he saw the body that it looked like a mannequin that had blood in its ear. According to police report #94-156500 of April 8 1994, it was an officer on the scene who took out Cobain's license and placed it beside the body for a photo. The same officer says that he identified the body as Cobain's from outside the greenhouse door before entering. How could he have done that if his head was blown off?

The wound Cobain suffered has been the source of much conflict. The few people who saw the body report different things. Grant asked to see the photographs when he went to the police with his suspicions. According to Grant, the police Sgt. told him that they haven't developed the photographs and probably never will, and that they don't develop photographs on suicides. Police reports indicate that the first officers on the scene took 23 polaroids, in addition to other photos.

According to police reports, there were no legible fingerprints on the shotgun, despite the fact that Cobain had purchased this weapon on March 30 and supposedly, days later, shot himself. Also, according to the police report, there was a brown paper bag on the floor next to Cobain's left foot. The bag contained 22 live 20 gauge shotgun shells. The box the shells came in contained 25 shells. The shotgun was loaded with three rounds when Cobain died. With one shell discharged into him, of what use would the other two shells have been to him after he was dead?

During the time Cobain was "missing" someone was using his credit card. The Seattle Times reported on May 11 that several charges were attempted on Cobain's Seafirst Mastercard. The last occurring at 1:35 a.m. on April 8, just hours before Kurt was found. No charges were attempted after Kurt's body was found. There has never been any attempt by Seattle police to clear this matter up according to Tom Grant.

The Hitman

According to the *High Times* article, Courtney Love offered the lead singer of the band the Mentors, El Duce, $50,000 to kill Cobain. She allegedly said: "El, I really need a big favour of you. My old man's been a real asshole lately. I need you to blow his fucking head off."

Their initial meeting was on New Year's Eve in 1993 at the Rock Shop, a Hollywood record store. They made plans for the future, but when Courtney called looking for El Duce at the Rock shop in March 1994, he was on tour. The manager of the Rock Shop, Karush Sepedjian, took Love's call. When he informed her that El Duce was on tour, he claims that she freaked out, screaming, "We made a deal," and "What am I gonna do?" Ten days later Cobain was found dead.

There is much more information regarding this issue. For more info check out Tom Grant's website at http://websites.earthlink.net/~tomgrant/ And Richard Lee's website http://www.speakeasy.org/%7Ekurtwasm/

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the Martlet is HIRING!!

We are looking for an Advertising Director. The position will start on September 1, 1996. Deadline for applications will be August 16, 1996.
The position will pay a salary and commission. A full job description is available from the Martlet located in the SUB room B011. Come in and talk to Jess or phone 721-8361 for more information.

• Community Events •

Live at **the Limit**, 1318 Broad Street; August 16 - The Archers of Loaf with Santo and the Papillomas. August 17 - Smugglers, Maow, and Duotang. August 22 - One and King Apparatus. August 23 - The Rheostatics and Bob Wiseman. August 29 - Alejandro Escovedo. Info: 384-3557.

August 25th - **Local Farm Tour**. Bring the family and visit ALM Farm in Sooke. Info: 598-6276.

Next **Martlet** - August 29!

From Nashville...the hottest new flatpicker on the music scene...**David Grier** in concert at Java August 16. Info: 475-6988

Monster slide guitarist **Ellen McIlwaine** at Java September 6.

Dobro playing master and guitarist/singer-songwriter **Stacy Phillips and Paul Howard**...October 18 at Java.

Yvonne Owens and Naomi Lester present More Arthurian Pot-Boilers, Tales of Lancelot, and Medieval Torch Songs at Bean Around the World, Saturday August 17, at 8pm.

Breaking Out.....Breaking Through at Sunfest 96. Everyone welcome! Put on by the Black History Awareness Society. August 25 at Braefoot Park. 12pm-9pm. What to bring - a picnic, a barbecue (if possible) and lots of energy! Don't forget your hat and sunscreen.

Victoria Summer Music Festival concert - The Esterhazy Salon Orchestra presents a "Summer Serenade", including works by Kreisler, Debussy, and Lehar. Saturday August 24th, 8pm at St John's Church, 1611 Quadra.

Victoria Summer Music Festival concert - "A Russian Evening" The McPherson Trio perform works by Russian Composers, including Arensky and Shostakovich.

Sunday August 25th, 1996 Free! Local Farm Tour. Pack a picnic lunch and bring the family on a tour of local organic farms. Meet the people who grow your food. Call LifeCycles 383-5800.

The Victoria Holocaust Remebrance and Education Society presents An Afternoon in Black and White with the ViCom Quartet. 2pm, Sunday August 18th, 1996. Roxy Theatre. Info: 652-9230.

The Ecology Technology Centre, Vipirg, and the Latin American Association of UVic present: **Appropriate Technologies and Environmental Education for Eco-development** with Lucas de Borbon (Argentina) 20 August, 7pm, SUB Upper Lounge, UVic. Info: 721-8229.

The UVic Film Society and Film Studies Course Union present a free screening of *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, Tuesday, August 20. Clearihue B005, 5pm.

Welfare Information and Rights Workshop #3. Thursday, August 22, 2:30-5:30pm. Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone. Info: 361-3521.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters are needed by our agency! Come out to a "volunteer information night" on: Thursday, August 22, 7pm. Suite 103-3347 Oak Street. Info: 475-1117.

• Ongoing •

World University Service of Canada. Make a difference locally and globally. Get together with like-minded people on your university campus and join a WUSC Local Committee to open up a whole new world. 1-800-267-8699.

The Association of International and Canadian Students is holding a coffee shop every Tues.@ 7 pm in HSD building room 300. Please drop by for coffee, a friendly chat, and to meet people. Everyone is wellcome.

The Martlet holds staff meetings every Thursday at 4 pm in our office SUB B011. Info: 721-8360.

The 24 Carrot Country Market will be held in Sidney at the Sanscha Hall Field every Sunday from 10am till 2pm through Sept. 29. Info: 656-4444.

November 13, 1996, is the date of this year's **UVic Women's Conference**. The title, Common Ground: Uncommon People, reflects the diversity of women in their roles, beliefs, ages, and experiences. The conference will acknowledge the contribution of women (students, staff, and faculty) within UVic. The awards committee will accept formal nominations at the start of the fall term. Anyone interested in participating in conference planning can contact Carel Wilkin at 384-3559 or Denise Lunger at 721-7939.

Recreation Integration Victoria needs Volunteers to support persons with disabilities in a variety of recreation and leisure pursuits. If you are able to make a commitment of 2-4 hours per week or are interested in finding out more about our service please call. Info: 477-6314.

• Notices •

The Civic Orchestra of Victoria will be holding final auditions for Principal Cellist August 24th. Vacancies also available for advanced violinists and violists. Info: 477-8868.

The Canadian Red Cross Society will beholding blood donor clinics August 19th and 20th at the Red Cross House, 909 Fairfield Road, from 2:30 to 8 pm each day.

Take Back the Night March Friday September 20. Safety Women needed. Training provided. Call Victoria Status of Women Action Group. 383-7322.

Craigflower Summer Camp. Sheep to be tended, chickens to be fed, and butter to be churned are all in a day's work at Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse during its popular Summer on the Old Farm day camp for kids ages 5-12. Info: 383-4627.

On September 19 & 20th, the Aurora Centre, a women's addiction treatment program based in Vancouver, is sponsoring a 2-day workshop with Dr Charlotte Davis Kasl. The workshop is entitled **Healing from Addictions and Trauma with Empowerment and Joy.** For more information contact the Aurora Centre, B.C. Women's Hospital, 875-2032 or e-mail npoole@w.womenhosp.bc.ca

The UVSS Sexual Assault Centre is looking for men and women who would like to make a difference. We are a student driven agency who will provide support and information to ALL members of the university community and **we need your help**. For more information call Katherine W. at 383-5545 or leave a message in the SUB general office.

The UVSS Sexual Assault Centre and the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre are accepting applications for their combined crisis line volunteer training. Women interested in making a commitment to helping individuals affected by sexual assault and/or abuse, call 383-5545 to obtain an application and to arrange an interview.

Pen Friend wanted by Albert Assiamah, PO Box 32, Mamprobi-Accra, Ghana. Seeking a student interested in the geography, history, culture, and civilization of Ghana.

Pets in Hot Cars. Please don't leave your dog or other animal in a parked car during the hot summer months. You could be risking her life. Even with the windows slightly open, the temperature inside your car will reach 39 degrees C. in 10 minutes in the shade. In 30 minutes it will reach 49 degrees C.
Your pet does not sweat like you do. A hot car interferes with a dog's normal cooling process, that is, evaporation through panting. With nothing but overheated air to breathe a dog can last only a short time before suffering irreparable brain damage or even death. Info: 388-7722

Project Literacy Victoria Third Annual Used Book Sale will be held on Saturday, August 24, 1996 between 10am and 3pm at St Matthias Church Hall, 600 Richmond Road. Info: 381-3755.

• Hey You!!! •

The fat skinny man has suffered and withdrawn into the bunny hole.

Chris - whether a pinch-hitter, a shortstop, or a full-time batter, you're always welcome on, or off, the team. Stay true to yourself & enjoy the ride. Mira

Una - Soccer practice has started and where are you?!!!! - P.

Pssst lists are a bad idea, they're supposed to be some kind of a guide, but really they fuck with your mind.

Pesha, pesha, bo-besha good job miss popular!

Christine - thanx 4 the potluck party! Stop by the SUB & say HI! - Pesha

Ellen - You got a cool new job, and you still haven't called me yet to brag about it. Let's do "Blizzards" again. You know where to find me.

Eric the Great helps us out a lot, and we really appreciate it!

J. Jonah Jamieson - we did it again, boss. Good cover!

Happy 41 Birthday to you know who. And please tell us how you keep your boyish good looks. Stay forever young! - the Martlet staff.

Jenny, Ade - LIST - Brown.

Hey Brown - wanna play a game?

Tracy - please stop by and say HI. We still have to do lunch, or something - P.

"Shandel" - are you back from the wilds yet? e-mail me! O. K.

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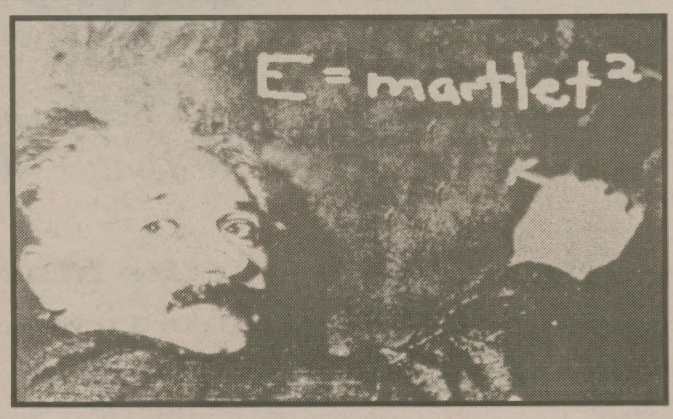
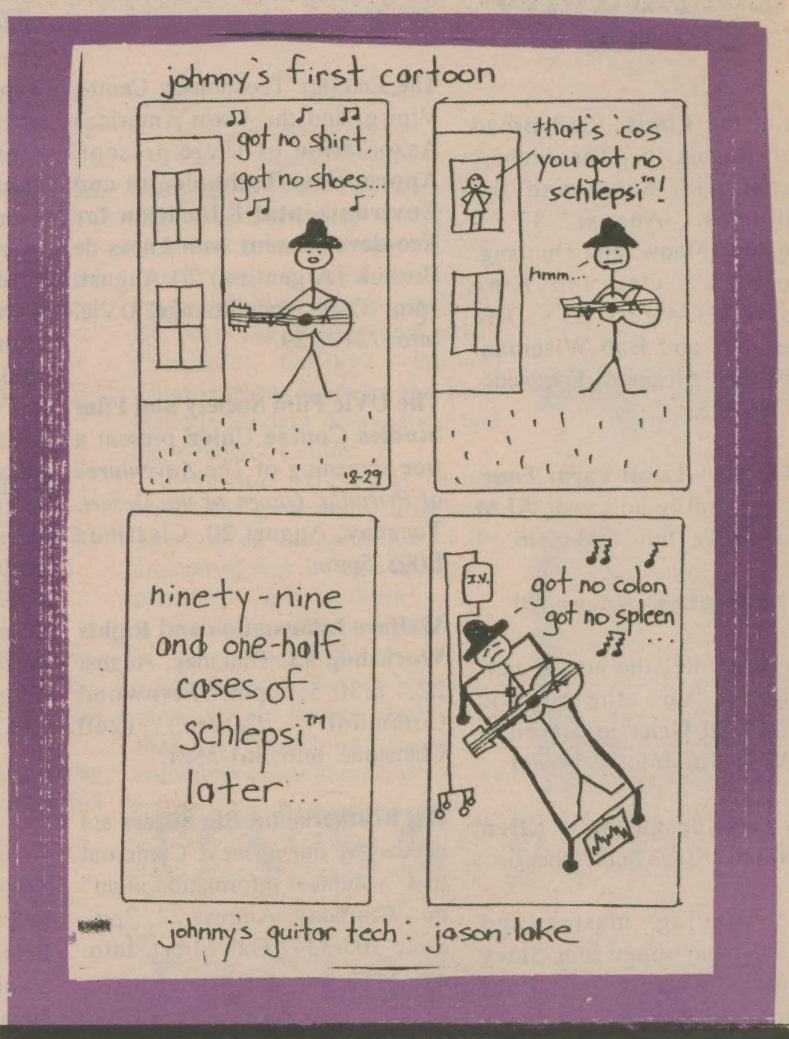


science
http://kafka.uvic.ca/~martlet/
fact

you are so goddamned selfish ricky! i'm sick of it, sick, sick, sick!!!
what are you talking about philomina!? why, just last week i bought you those red vinyl crotchless panties...
TROJAN
WHEN YOU'RE THIS GOOD, THEY SPONSOR YOU.
those weren't for me.
huh! well who were they for, my grandma? fuuuuhhhcckk.
enough of this shit. you can get lost, ricky reynolds! anyway, i'm off to my s.c.u.m. meeting!
The end.


johnny's first cartoon
got no shirt, got no shoes...
18-29
that's 'cos you got no schlepsi™!
hmm...
ninety-nine and one-half cases of schlepsi™ later...
got no colon got no spleen ...
I.V.
johnny's guitar tech: jason lake

Do something selfish.
Save a whale.

Or plant a tree. Or recycle your newspaper. After all, whenever you do anything - big or small - to help restore and conserve our wild spaces and species, you also help yourself. We count on these living resources for everything from medical advancement to industrial growth. In other words, what we do for them, we do for ourselves. And our children. Get in touch with us at www.wwfcanada.org or 1-800-26-PANDA and we'll tell you a few more selfish ways you can help.

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you know you love it.

johnny's first comic by jason lake
other thing by lyndsay.

the Martlet

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or
Call 721-8360 for information on how to get involved.

the Martlet where enemies are made

* certainly don't feel intimidated or shy to submit things... except if it sucks we're not gonna print your lousy crap !! sub basement, [RM b011.]

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